



**U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement**

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News Release

ICE DEPORTS ALGERIAN TAXI DRIVER WHO SEXUALLY ABUSED FEMALE PASSENGER

CHICAGO—An Algerian taxi driver who sexually abused a female passenger in the back seat of his cab was deported yesterday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Ismail Rabahi, 36, was arrested by ICE agents at his Chicago Ridge residence Jan. 18 and remained in federal custody until yesterday afternoon when he was deported to Algiers, Algeria, escorted by two government officials.



Rabahi was working as a cab driver in Chicago when he picked up a female passenger at the corner of Madison and Morgan Aug. 10, 2003. Instead of taking his passenger to the requested destination, he detoured to a dark street and parked his taxi. He then got into the back seat with his passenger, grabbed the victim's breasts, and began masturbating. After committing the sexual abuse, Rabahi got back behind the wheel and drove the victim to her destination.

Rabahi was convicted of aggravated criminal sexual abuse in Cook County Circuit Court in 2004 and sentenced to two years probation. However, as a convicted criminal alien, Rabahi was now eligible for deportation.

ICE had already been investigating Rabahi for possible marriage fraud. However, when the investigation uncovered his aggravated felony conviction, ICE had all the necessary information to arrest him and place him into removal proceedings.

"Rabahi violated the public trust by sexually abusing his captive prisoner in his taxi cab," said ICE Field Office Director Debbie Achim. Achim oversees ICE's Detention and Removal Operations program for a six-state area. "Sexual predators are at the top of our list for arrest and removal."

Rabahi entered the United States Sept. 16, 1997 as a visitor on a six-month visa. He violated his status by overstaying his visa.

ICE formally removed more than 160,000 aliens nationally in fiscal year 2004. More than half of those were criminal aliens. The ICE Chicago office removed more than 6,100 aliens last year, a 28-percent increase over the previous year.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.